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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 26 July 1994 from the Charg6 d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Press Secretary/Director-General for Public Information and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the signing of the Washington Declaration by Israel and Jordan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 35.

(Signed) Shunji MARUYAMA
Acting Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement by the Press Secretary/Director-General for Public Information and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the signing of the Washington Declaration by Israel and Jordan

The signing of the Washington Declaration, which ends the state of war between Israel and Jordan and promises cooperation towards the conclusion of a peace treaty, is the latest accomplishment in the Middle East peace process that began in October 1991. It follows the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed on 13 September 1993 and the start of the Palestinian interim self-government in May 1994. The Government of Japan heartily welcomes this achievement and highly values the efforts made by the negotiators and the countries that co-hosted the peace process.

The Government of Japan hopes that this Declaration will have a positive effect on the peace negotiations between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as those between Israel and Lebanon, and will mark a future step towards a comprehensive peace.

Assistance from the international community is indispensable for progress in the peace process, including the implementation of this Declaration. Japan intends to contribute to the peace process by approaching the parties engaged in the peace negotiations, participating in multilateral negotiations, and assisting the Palestinians and the countries around them.